



ROOT CARIES AMONG INSTITUTIONALIZED ELDERLY

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Introduction

Cervical caries or root caries is one of the most common types of caries among the elderly, especially among the institutionalized elderly. Due process of apical migration of epithelial attachment and present gingival recession, primary site of this type of caries occurrence is cervical region.



Gingival
recession

Apical migration of
epithelial attachment

Root caries

Objective

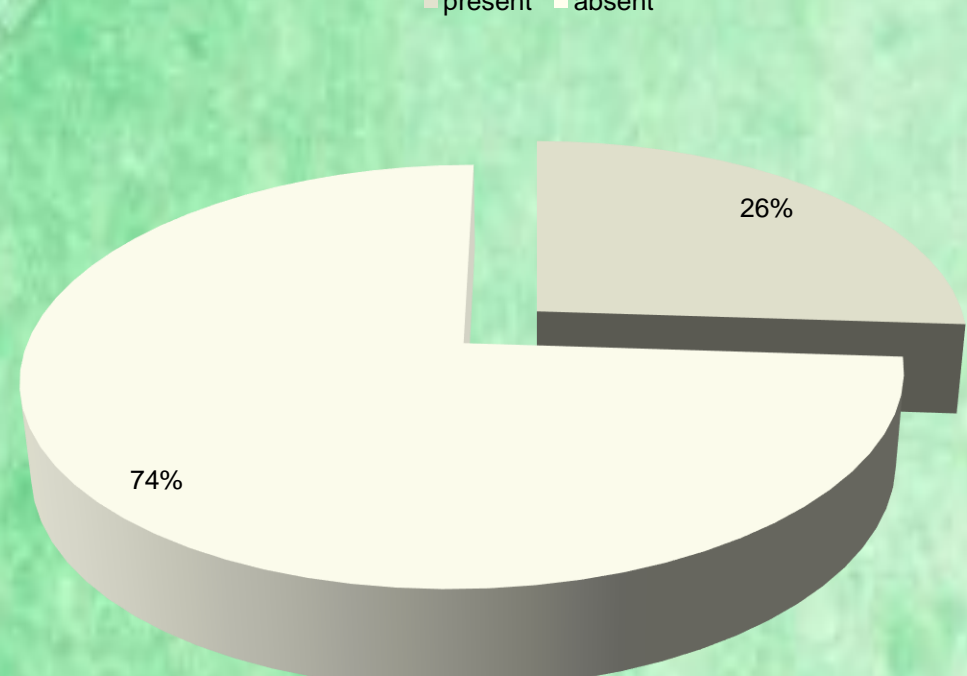
The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of cervical caries among institutionalized elderly

Materials and methods

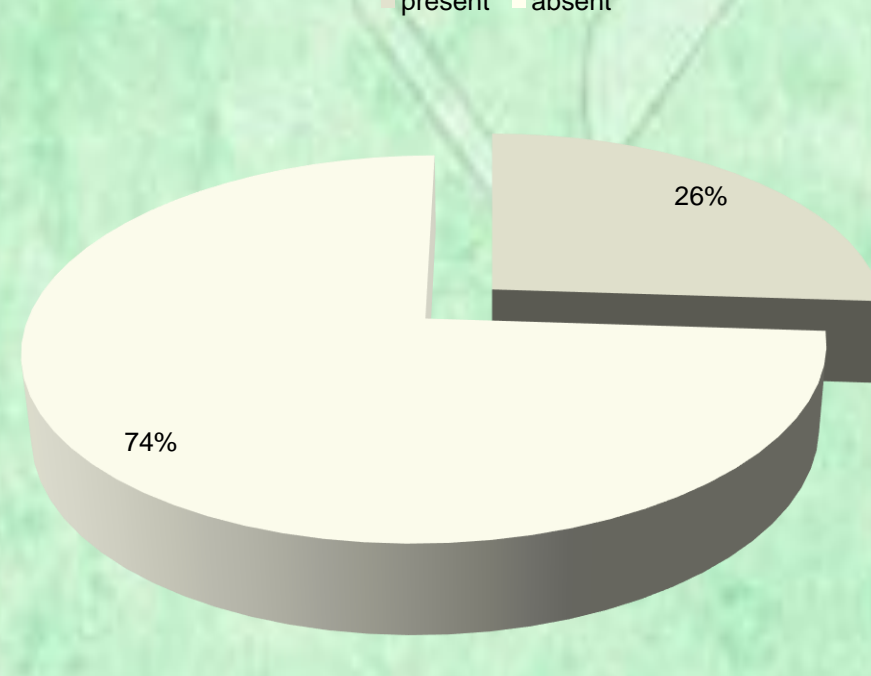
The research was conducted in the "Mother Teresa" department, within the PHI Gerontology Institute "XIII-th of November" Skopje. All of the institutionalized persons (total number - 73 subjects) older than 65 years were examined. Clinical examination was performed and the prevalence of root caries among respondents was determined.



Root caries among subjects with natural teeth



Root caries among all examined subjects



Number of root caries lesions	Number of subjects	Percentage from all subjects	Percentage from subjects with natural teeth
One	6	16,22 %	8,22 %
Two	10	27,04 %	13,70 %
Three	1	2,70 %	1,37 %
Four	1	2,70 %	1,37 %
Five +	2	5,41 %	2,74 %

18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
0	0	0	0	4	0	4	2	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	1	3	3	3	0	1	2	5	2	1	1	0	0
48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38

Results

- The research indicates that the examined institutionalized people older than 65 years in which there were natural teeth, prevalence of root caries was 54.05%.
- The average number of root caries defects was $1,16 \pm 1,4$.
- Among the overall examined population the presence of root caries of teeth was 26.03%.
- Root caries is more common in the lower jaw (the frontal teeth mostly - 34.14%) than on the upper jaw.
- According to the processed data in this examination tooth which is usually encompassed from root caries is left lower canine.
- In only one patient (1.74% of the) was observed definitive restoration of the root caries.

Conclusion:

Institutionalized elderly showed a high prevalence of root caries, with only a low number of carious lesions which are repaired with definitive filling.